

For other categories of farmers, the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- per hectare or 70% of the cost of the sprinkler system per hectare whichever is less, is provided.

Statement

The Physical Targets for the Distribution of Sprinkler Sets Under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during 1996-97 (State-wise)

S.No.	State	Physical Targets Under OPP (Nos.)	Physical Targets Under NPDP (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4880	240
2.	Bihar	400	240
3.	Gujarat	1600	240
4.	Haryana	640	80
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	16
6.	Karnataka	800	400
7.	Madhya Pradesh	4960	1360
8.	Maharashtra	3200	800
9.	Manipur	160	—
10.	Orissa	400	400
11.	Rajasthan	4960	1280
12.	Sikkim	—	144
13.	Tamil Nadu	800	—
14.	Tripura	—	1200
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2400	—
Total		25200	6400

[Translation]

Loss of Livestock

3721. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of livestock in Gujarat particularly in the tribal and rural areas during the last three years till date;

(b) the nature of assistance sought by the Government of Gujarat during the said period; and

(c) the nature of assistance proposed to be given by the Central Government and the amount of assistance already provided to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being gathered and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Clinical Drug Trials

3722. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government considers proposal to allow concurrent clinical drug trials" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated February 24, 1997.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of measures taken/under consideration to boost up investment in the drug industry;

(d) the details of strategies worked out for the promotion and development R&D in the drug sector; and

(e) the result of the action plan under implementation and funds likely to be invested in R&D in the drug sector for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no plans under consideration of the Government to allow clinical trials of the new drugs concurrently. However, clinical trials for new drugs discovered abroad for diseases prevalent in India may be examined for approval of clinical trials simultaneously in India in the interest of consumers benefit.

As regards anti cancer and other life saving drugs, drug rules under Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 prescribe that the requirement for submitting the results of local clinical trials may not be necessary if the drug is of such a nature that the licensing authority may, in public interest, decide to grant such permission based on data available from other countries. The anti cancer drug Gemcite for treatment of lung cancer was approved based on recommendation of Cancer Experts in the Country.

(c) to (e) Measures to boost up investment in the drug industry and strategies for the promotion of R&D in drug sector are given in "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986"

announced in September, 1994—copy of which is available in the Library of Parliament.

These measures have resulted in removal of artificial impediments in the growth of the pharmaceutical industry and have created awareness with regard to the importance of R&D in this sector.

Safi River

3723. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Pollution Board has not been able to check the alarming rise in the percentage level of arsenic and mercury in the Safi River in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZI): (a) As per information made available from Bihar State Pollution Control Board, arsenic and mercury pollution in Safi River were within permissible limits.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Legislation on Bio Diversity

3724. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report captioned "No consensus on tackling genetic smuggling" appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated February 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken on the issues raised therein; and

(d) the steps taken during the last four years to bring out comprehensive legislation on safeguarding the bio diversity of the country and present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The said news report deals with the subject of regulating access to biological resources of the country. Soon after India ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in February 1994 and became a Party to the Convention, the Ministry of Environment and Forests initiated steps to design a comprehensive legislation on biodiversity. One of the main objectives of this legislation would be to

regulate access to biological resources of the country. Biodiversity being a wide subject, consultations with various stake holders, related departments and Ministries, State Governments, experts, etc., were required, and initiated. Analysis and examination of all existing regulations having any linkage with biodiversity was also required and has now been done. Taking note of the time required to complete this exercise, the Ministry of Environment and Forests simultaneously worked on developing an interim measure to regulate export of biological resources of India under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992. This exercise was done through an inter-ministerial Group which also had NGOs and experts as its members. The draft Public Notice made by this Group has finally not been found suitable because of its implications for trade and difficulties in its implementation. Following inter-ministerial consultations on the subject in January 1997, the work on a comprehensive legislation has been speeded up.

Crimes on National Highway

3725. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether robberies and kidnappings on the Delhi-Rishikesh national highway has increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check robberies and kidnappings on the highway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hunger Free Nation

3726. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to make the nation hunger free;

(b) if so, the strategy adopted and the target date fixed for the purpose;

(c) the fund provision made in this connection for 1997-98;